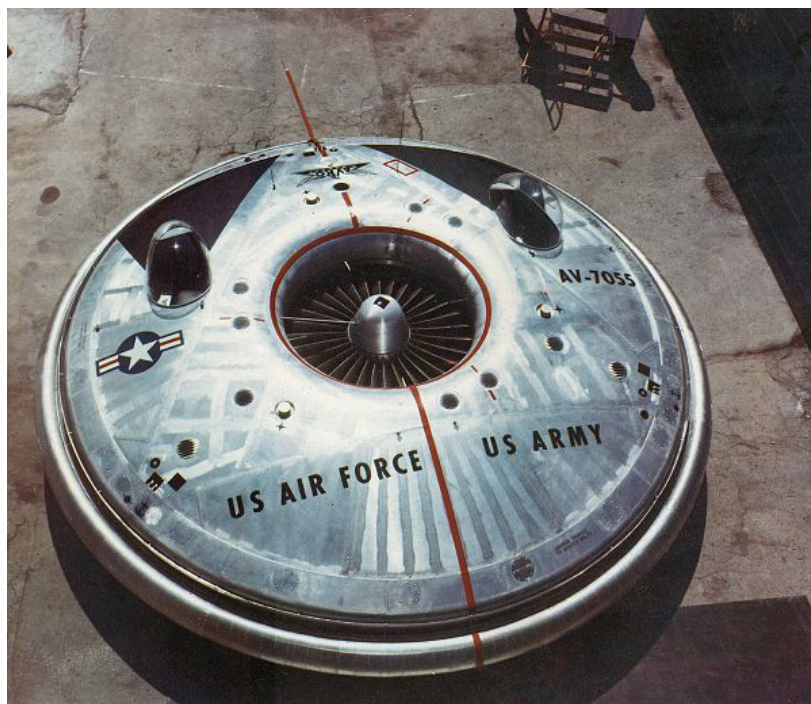
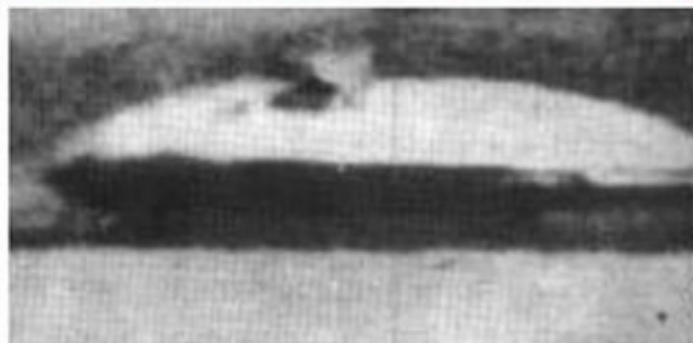


Avro Project Silverbug



The U.S. military was pretty optimistic about the UFO shape, and in 1954 they funded a derivative of the Project Y aircraft called Project Silverbug. Silverbug was designed to fly in excess of Mach 3.5 at up to 100,000 feet using six jet engines to drive the main impeller. A test rig of the engine (named "Viper") was set up in a bunker protected by quarter-inch steel and bulletproof glass, but it proved to be so dangerous that nobody wanted to go anywhere near the thing. A "nearly lethal" and totally disastrous engine test in 1956 finally convinced everybody that Project Silverbug wasn't going anywhere.



Avro was by no means done with the flying saucer. By 1959, they'd come up with a prototype for a smaller hovering vehicle called the Avrocar, which relied on three jet engines to power a gigantic turbine that forced air outwards and downwards around the rim of the saucer. Despite the fact that the Avrocar tended to melt itself with its own exhaust, the U.S. military continued to hope that it would replace the Jeep with something a little more flying sacuary up until 1961, when the program was cancelled after the prototype failed to get more than three feet off the ground.